



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Public Notice

Public Notice No. 07-55

Date: June 15, 2007

Nashville District

Application No. 2007-00977

Expires: July 16, 2007

Please address all comments to:
Nashville District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch
3701 Bell Road, Nashville, TN 37214 (Attn: Lisa R. Morris)

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
STATE OF ALABAMA

SUBJECT: Proposed Municipal Water Line Crossing the
Tennessee River at Mile 304.6, Wheeler Lake, Morgan and
Limestone Counties, Alabama

TO ALL CONCERNED: The application described below has been
submitted for a Department of the Army Permit (DA) pursuant
to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Tennessee
Valley Authority (TVA) approval pursuant to Section 26a of
the TVA Act. Before a permit can be issued, certification
must be provided by the Alabama Department of Environmental
Management (ADEM) pursuant to Section 401(a)(1) of the CWA
that applicable water quality standards will not be
violated. By copy of this notice, the applicant hereby
applies for the required certification.

APPLICANT: Limestone County Water & Sewer Authority
PO Box 110
Athens, AL 35612

LOCATION: Tennessee River Mile 304.6 and Adjacent Wetlands,
Morgan and Limestone Counties, AL. USGS Maps: Tanner and
Decatur, AL. Lat: 34-37-00, Lon: 87-59-00. TVA Easement
Tract #XWR63W; RLR 179708.

DESCRIPTION: The proposed work consists of the construction
of a 30-inch diameter municipal water transmission main
across the river and the north bank wetlands on TVA easement
at the subject location (by either directional drill or
trenching). Across the commercial navigation channel, from
Sta. 0+00 to 35+00 as shown on Exhibit B, the waterline
would be installed by directional drill roughly 30' under
the channel bottom. Upon day lighting on the north bank,
the waterline would follow existing railroad right-of-way as

close as possible, installed in a trench or by directional drill (from Sta. 35+00 to 82+00). The applicant is conducting a land survey and concurrent archaeological survey of the proposed corridor and the findings may necessitate the clearing of trees from the north bank wetlands, length approximately 2,000 linear feet, to obtain a required 20' wide construction zone. At that time, based upon the amount of hardwood wetland impact, not to exceed one acre, the decision will be made on which installation process is to best to use. At that time, a wetland delineation would be provided with a mitigation proposal. If trenching is determined feasible, the trees would be removed, the waterline laid in a trench on a bed of crushed stone, then backfilled to a minimum 3-foot cover with original stockpiled soils to preconstruction grade. The applicant would maintain the cleared wetland area as a wetland after construction.

The City of Decatur currently supplies water to Limestone County through a 16-inch diameter pipeline attached to the US-31 bridge. Crossing the river and north bank wetlands by bridge was considered but since the bridge currently supports the 16" water main and a wastewater force main, there was no location to attach, and the highway department was not in favor. Plans of the proposed work are attached.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA (40 CFR Part 230). A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historical properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above.

Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. An EA will be prepared prior to a final decision concerning issuance or denial of the requested permits.

The applicant is currently conducting a Phase I underwater and overland archaeological survey of the project corridor. Results of the survey will be provided to the State Historic Preservation, through TVA's archaeologist, when available. The National Register of Historic Places was consulted and no properties listed or eligible for the National Register are known that would be affected by the proposed work. This review constitutes the full extent of cultural resource investigations unless the survey finds that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area. The applicant has indicated that the project alignment would likely be altered to avoid any sites of concern. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Based on available information, the proposed work will not destroy or endanger any federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats, as identified under the Endangered Species Act, and, therefore, initiation of formal consultation procedures with the US Fish and Wildlife Service is not planned at this time.

Other federal, state, and/or local approvals may be required for the proposed work. In addition to other provisions of its approval, TVA would require the applicant to employ best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation, as necessary, to prevent adverse aquatic impacts.

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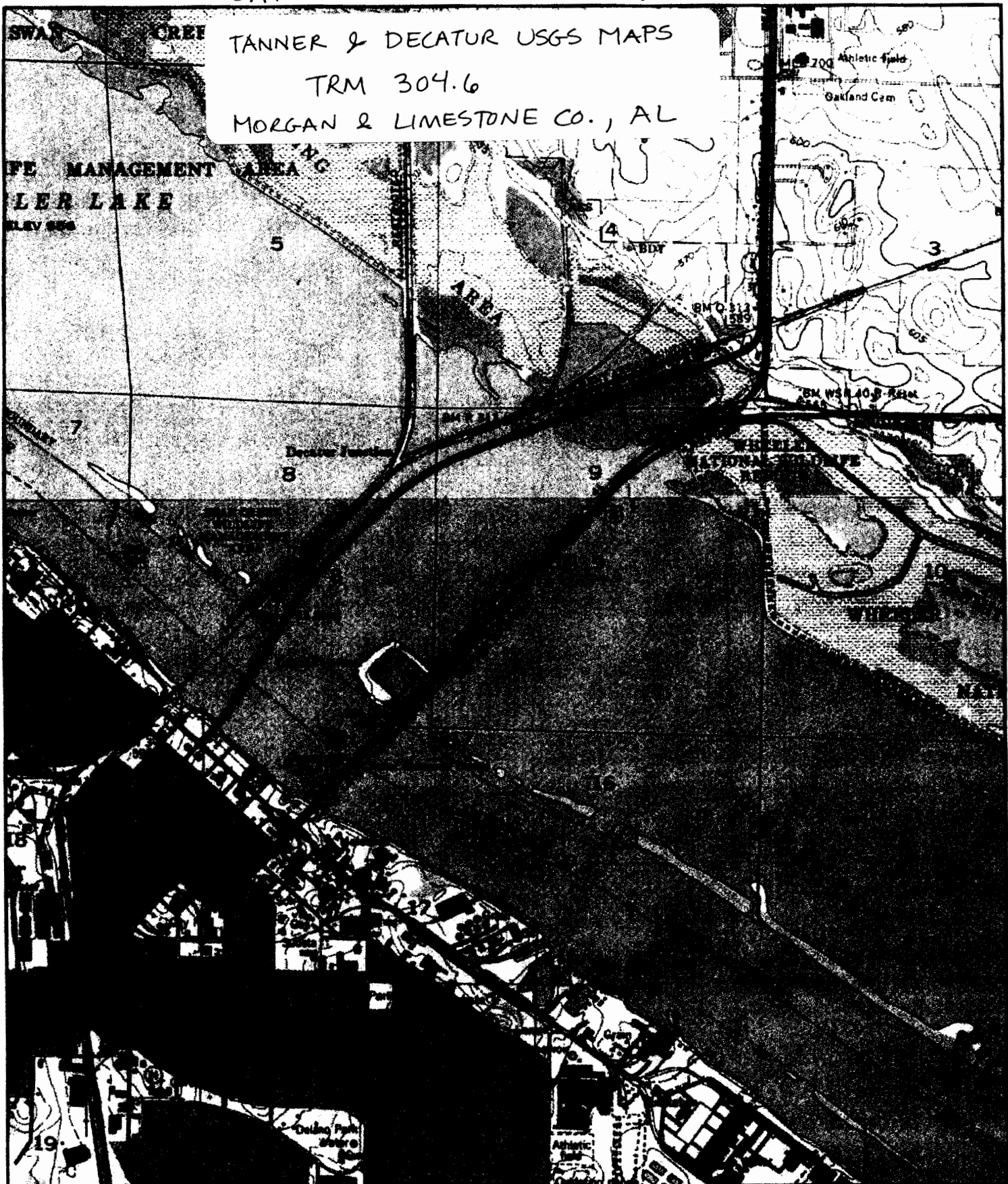
File No. 2007-00977

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a hearing. Written statements received in this office on or before **July 16, 2007**, will become a part of the record and considered in the determination.

Any response to this notice should be directed to the Regulatory Branch, Attn: Lisa R. Morris, at the above address, telephone (615) 369-7504. It is not necessary to comment separately to TVA or the state, since copies of all comments will be sent to those agencies and will become part of their record on the proposal. Point of contact with ADEM is James McAfee, (334) 394-4301. Point of contact at TVA is Samantha Strickland, telephone (256) 386-2643.

LAT: 34-37-00 LON: 87-59-00

TANNER & DECATUR USGS MAPS
TRM 304.6
MORGAN & LIMESTONE CO., AL



Hethcoat & Davis, Inc.

H & D

Engineers • Planners

700 Main Street, Suite 200 • Birmingham, Alabama 35203 • 205-377-4200

EXHIBIT A
FILE NO. 2007-00977

PN 07-55



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SCALE

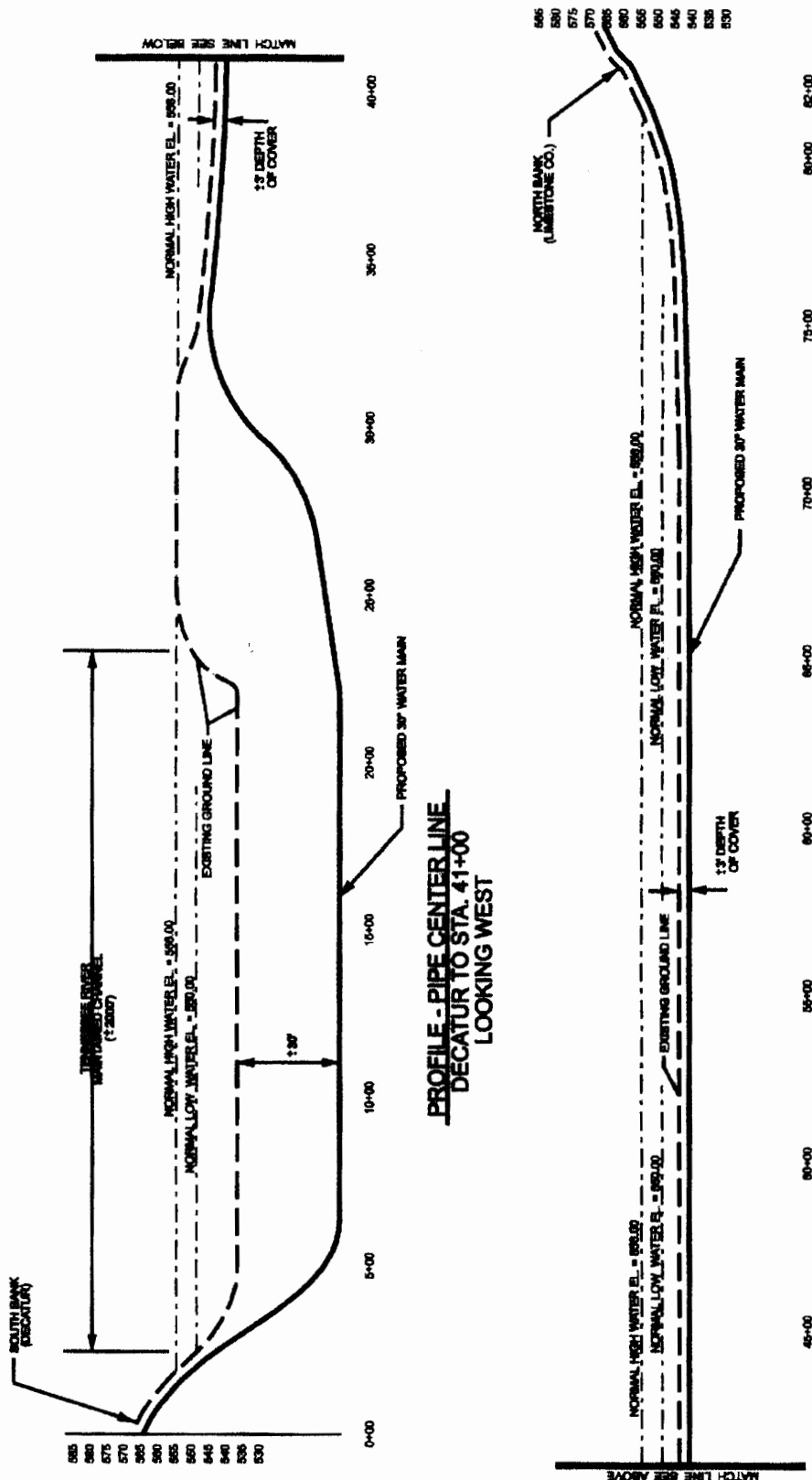
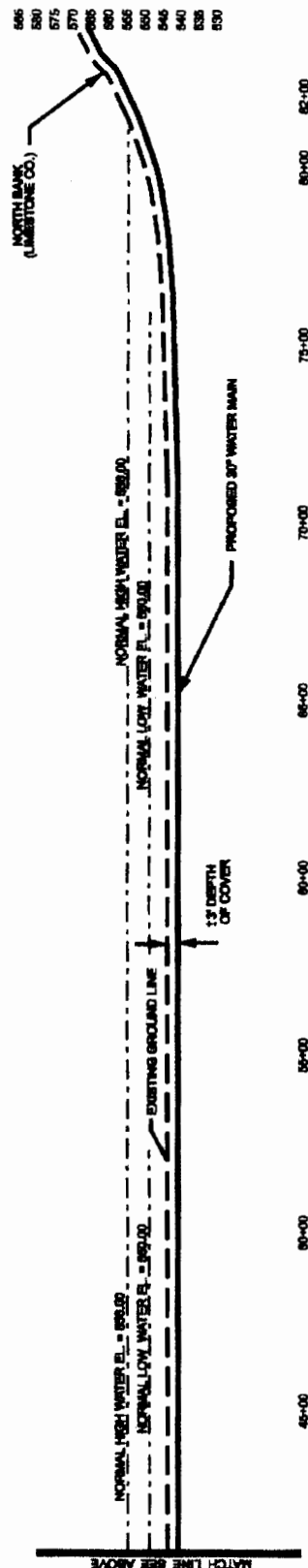


EXHIBIT B
FILE NO. 2007-00977
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- NOTE: 1. PIPE SPECIFICATION:
30" API 5L X GRADE, 0.30" WALL THICKNESS,
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR EPOXY COATING, 168 M/LF
2. SELECT GRANULAR BEDDING & BACKFILL

SCALE: 1"=800'

Hethcoat & Davis, Inc.



278 FRANKLIN ROAD, SUITE 200 • BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE • 615-877-4300

LIMESTONE COUNTY WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY
30" WATER TRANSMISSION MAIN
TENNESSEE RIVER CROSSING